

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraphs at page 42, lines 6 through page 43, line 4 with the following amended paragraphs.

The above-mentioned AB 10119 strain, AB 10215 strain and AB 10135 strain are novel microorganisms and each are useful for the production of L-epi-2-inosose from myo-inositol. According to a third aspect of this invention, therefore, there is provided, as a novel microorganism, Xanthomonas sp. AB 10119 strain which has a characteristic capability of converting myo-inositol into L-epi-2-inosose and has been deposited May 7, 1999 in a Japanese depository, the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, under a deposit number of FERM BP-7168.

According to a fourth aspect of this invention, there is provided, as a novel microorganism, Pseudomonas sp. AB 10215 strain which has a characteristic capability of converting myo-inositol into L-epi-2-inosose and has been deposited March 31, 2000 in a Japanese depository, the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, under a deposit number of FERM BP-7170.

According to a fifth aspect of this invention, there is provided, as a novel microorganism, Erwinia sp. AB 10135 strain which has a characteristic capability of converting myo-inositol into L-epi-2-inosose and has been deposited March 31, 2000 in a Japanese depository, the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology,

Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, under a deposit number of FERM
BP-7169.